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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY

USSR/Germany (Soviet Zone)

DATE DISTR. 20 Dec 1952

SUBJECT

East German Alert Police

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE  
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)DATE  
ACQUIREDSUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO. 25X1

DATE OF INFO

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there was a People's Police installation near Soviet headquarters. Every day, they could be seen marching out to training. They saluted Soviet officers. Everyone knew that they were undergoing military training, just like ourselves. 25X1

The average soldier accepts it to a greater degree than do the officers. His attitude is that it's better for the Germans to have to fight than for him. He doesn't consider East Germany really dangerous, believing that no war industry exists as a result of reparations, and that the Germans are consequently dependent on the Soviets for arms. Officers, on the other hand, know that war industry does exist, and therefore take a more skeptical attitude towards East German rearmament. 25X1

in Potsdam, some young People's Police entered a cafe where several Soviet officers were sitting. The Germans had just graduated from a school, and were celebrating. Finally one of them, a young man of 18 or so, came over to our group, and offered to shake hands with a Major. The Major refused. The young German was very hurt, and asked: "Why won't you shake my hand? After all, we'll be fighting on the same side one day." "Because," the Major replied, "your father killed my family. That's why I won't shake your hand." this experience may have had a profound effect on the young German. 25X1

It's hard to say, and would depend largely on when war broke out. At present, they couldn't be used independently; that is, a sector could not be assigned to a German command. Probably the East Germans would be used in the front lines, but dispersed among Soviet troops, so that the Soviets could maintain absolute control. For example, a company of Germans might be integrated in a Soviet regiment. Another possible use for them would be guard duties and line of communications security. And as the Soviets moved forward, they could be used as occupation troops for West Germany. At some future time, their reliability might be greater. They are mostly young and they are being indoctrinated. They 25X1

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accept much of what they are taught. They know that the Nazis committed terrible crimes, and see Stalin primarily as the man who rid the world of the Nazis. They believe that Germany should be united and that this can be done only with Soviet help. Furthermore, Germans are used to obeying orders.

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Hatred and dislike are infinitely greater between German and Pole than between German and Russian. Although, many Russian officers do hate them. They know the Germans as people, whereas enlisted men don't. The Germans love no one but themselves. An example: Five of us went to a nightclub about five miles from Dresden. It was a nice place, with an orchestra. After we'd had a drink, we wanted to dance.

Then he got up on the platform where the orchestra was playing, made them stop, and made a speech. "Why won't you dance with us?" he asked. "After all we're humans, just like you." Then he fired a shot through the ceiling, and said, "Well if we can't dance, you can't dance either. Go home! All of you go home!" Meanwhile, two Soviet sergeants who were present had each removed one boot, and as the Germans departed in haste, the sergeants sped them on their way, from behind. No, the Germans are still Germans, and they don't like Russians or anybody else except themselves.

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